



Carmen P. Forte Jr.

Partner

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Overview

Carmen Forte, Jr. counsels Illinois municipalities, school districts, libraries, special districts and corporate and non-profit clients. He regularly litigates in state and federal courts and various administrative venues for clients in a range of matters. He works with our clients to negotiate and manage several development agreements, helping to bring significant residential and commercial development to their communities. He prosecutes for the firm's numerous municipal clients in the areas of DUI and traffic offenses, local ordinance violations and business, tobacco and liquor licensing matters. He also defends the firm's clients in workers' compensation claims and disability pension matters.

Prior to joining Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Carmen served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. During his time as a criminal prosecutor, he handled felony and misdemeanor matters and tried numerous bench and jury trials. During his time with the State's Attorney's Office, he served as a law clerk in the prosecution of musician Robert "R" Kelly.

Carmen first became interested in pursuing municipal law in his adolescent years, while sitting through many Village board meetings watching his father, Carmen Forte, Sr., serve as a long tenured trustee in his hometown of Elmwood Park. Carmen and his wife Ashley, who is also an attorney, currently reside in Campton Hills with their two sons and their dog, Augie.

Carmen received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from the John Marshall Law School. During that time, he interned in the United States Senate, served as a legislative aide in the Illinois House of Representatives, worked as a law clerk with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and was a member of the Notre Dame Glee Club. Carmen is admitted to practice in the state of Illinois, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Professional Affiliations

- Carmen is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association, and the Justinian Society of Lawyers. He is also the Third Vice President for the Columbian Club of Chicago.

Community Involvement

- Carmen previously served as a trustee of the Village of Elmwood Park Library Board. During his tenure on the Board, he held the positions of President and Vice President and also chaired several committees.
- Carmen previously served on the Plan, Zoning and Development Commission of the Village of Elmwood Park, where he was the Commission Secretary. He is a strong supporter of the Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce, and his family has operated a local plumbing business in nearby River Grove since the 1960s.

Awards and Recognition

- Carmen received the 2015 President's Award from the Oak Leyden Developmental Services.

Publications

- The Sunshine Laws, Open Meetings Acts and Freedom of Information Acts – co-author, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education Practice Volume, 2020
- Manual on Units of Local Government Business Regulation, Taxation and Licensing – co-author, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education Practice Volume, 2020
- “Tort Liability of School Districts,” – author, Illinois School Law, Organization, Finance and Property, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education Practice Volume, 2017
- “The Prosecution of Traffic and DUI Cases by Local Governments” – author, Municipal Law (Illinois): Organization, Operation, and Governance, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education Practice Volume, 2019

Presentations

- Cannabis Potpourri: Taxing, Zoning, Licensing, Employment, & Expungement – Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association Annual Conference, 2019
- How to Properly Investigate and Address Sexual Harassment Allegations within Your Library – Illinois Library Annual Conference, 2018
- 3...2...1 Lift Off: A Discussion on Municipal Use & Regulation of Drones – Illinois Municipal League Annual Conference, 2018
- How to Avoid Missteps in the Social Media Minefield – Area Training for Librarians and Staff (ATLAS), Annual Trustee and Staff Training Workshop, 2018
- Sexual Harassment and Transgender Issues in the Workplace: A Guide to sensitivity, prevention, and detection – Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, 2017
- Legal Issues Related to Library Patrons – Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) PrairieCat Users Group Session, 2017
- Library Board of Trustees Meetings: Proper Procedures and Compliance with the Open Meetings Act – Illinois Library Association Annual Conference 2017 and 2019, Trustees Forum, 2019
- Employee Ethics Training - Village of Lake Zurich, 2017
- Building Code/Code Enforcement Hearings and Final Orders - Illinois Local Government Lawyers/Cook County Department of Administrative Hearings Administrative Hearing Officer Training, 2016
- The Do's and Don'ts of Construction and Remodeling Projects: From Drafting Bid Documents to Awarding the Contract - Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, 2016
- FOIA, OMA and Law Enforcement Requests - Area Training for Librarians and Staff (ATLAS), Annual Trustee and Staff Training Workshop, 2016
- Crime Free Housing Ordinance Seminars - Orland Park Police Department, 2013-2015
- Medical Cannabis and Concealed Carry, One Year Later - Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association, Municipal Prosecutors Group Seminar, 2014.
- Medical Marijuana and other Marijuana Enforcement Issues - Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association, Municipal Prosecutors Group Seminar, 2013.
- Medical Marijuana and other Marijuana Enforcement Issues - Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association Annual Conference, 2013.

Representative Cases

- Beckett v. Village of Maywood – Circuit Court of Cook County – obtained summary judgment on a complaint for personal injury from a parkway trip and fall, based on the Village’s lack of notice of the specific defect.
- Olson v. Lombard Police Pension Fund, 2020 IL App (2d) 190113 – Illinois Appellate Court, 2nd District – affirmation of a pension board ruling denying an on-duty disability pension.
- Colella v. Village of Lombard - Circuit Court of DuPage County – obtained dismissal of a complaint for personal injury based on the defective condition of a walking path inside of a Park District wooded area.
- Macchione v. City of Aurora – Circuit Court of Kane County – obtained dismissal of a complaint for personal

injury caused by a criminal incident that occurred on City-owned property adjacent to a casino.

- Schroedle v. Village of Orland Park – Circuit Court of Cook County – obtained summary judgment on a complaint for personal injury from a sidewalk trip and fall, based on the Village’s lack of notice of the specific defect.

Related Practices

- Municipal Law
- Library Law
- School Law
- Special Districts
- Corporate Law
- Election Law
- Construction Law
- Labor and Employment
- Real Estate Law